

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, 1876, with transcript

From Miss Mabel G. Hubbard to Mr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1876? Sunday My dear Alec:

I beg your pardon for telling you so little of the contents of your Mother's letter, of which you must be anxious to hear. Indeed I could not help it for when I wrote I was in a hurry to catch the mail. She said your patents had been given to your Uncle to post. That she had had a long letter from your uncle Edward in Melbourne, who has obtained twelve months leave of absence on full pay and thinks of leaving for Europe in March and will pay your Mother a visit. He has two sons who are going to be married. There is no marked improvement in your Cousin's ears yet. I can sympathise with her for I have had the same trouble ever since my illness years ago though never in a painful degree. It used to be very disagreeable but is much improved the last few years, and I only have to wash them in warm water. Jeannie Lippitt had the same trouble too.

I wonder what you have been doing all this time. I shall be very anxious to hear how you succeed and all about the patents. Is Mr. Stanley's letter as important as I thought? I hope your journey to Washington was a comfortable one.

Yesterday Grace and I went to Dole and Richards gallery to see an exhibition of modern french pictures for the benefit of the Luke's home for Convalescents. Some of the pictures were lovely. I fancied especially a cattle piece, two cows standing among trees and beside a pool of water and the sun coming slantwise through the branches of the trees casting long shadows. The whole effect is extremely pretty. There was one tiny picture by Gerome a favorite painter of mine. It is entitled "War" and was painted in aid of the sufferers by the siege of Paris. It represents a peasant woman sitting among the blackened ruins of her home in an attitude of utter despair and a hardened fixed look upon her face. In the back ground houses are There was a lovely picture by Jules Breton called —2 "The

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Votive Candle” a sweet faced woman offering a candle. It is so delicately painted and there is so much expression in the face. There was one pretty little picture “The Invalid” i.e. a sick pussy and monkey doctor. Alma Tadems was represented by an exquisite little painting of a Creek or Roman girl of a thousand years ago among pots of flowers. I have seen engravings of this artist's pictures, but never originals. I could not like them as they appeared photographed but that picture I saw yesterday was beautifully painted.

Don't you take airs over me any more because you are going to exhibit at the Centenial, for I may do so too, and not only that but while you applied for space it has been offered to me and I requested as a favor to contribute! And so high is my grandour that I am not sure if I will accept.

I have waited until after dinner to see if any letters would come from or for you but I have been disappointed. I must close now, it is near Sunday School time. I wish I were going to see you after that.

With much love, Mabel.